MARKET HARBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT for 1939.

To the Market Harborough Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

We beg to present our abridged Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary conditions of the district. As figures from the Registrar General are not yet available, the vital statistics have to remain over at present.

According to available figures, the births and deaths for the year were both above the average, but the infant mortality rate was still very low.

The Staff of the Health Services remains numerically unchanged, but a new whole-time Health Visitor was appointed during the year.

Laboratory Facilities - carried out in the County Council's laboratory were as follows:-

Milk examinations (bacteriological)... ...	26
Sputa for T.B.	22
Wasserman Tests...	5
Sewage and Water Analyses...	17
Throat Swabs for Diphtheria	35
Urine for T.B.	6
Films for Gonococci	1
Widal Tests for Typhoid	3

Ambulance, Hospital and Nursing Facilities were unchanged.

Maternity and Child Welfare: The Welfare Centre remains as in previous years, as also the visiting by the Health Visitor. During the latter part of the year the Centre was attended every week instead of every fortnight by the Medical Officer on account of the influx of evacuated infants.

Evacuated Children: With the outbreak of war, 3250 children were received into the town, of whom 1600 were billeted in neighbouring villages, and 1650 in this district. Many of these were found to be infected with Scabies or Impetigo; a sick bay was opened at Lorne House for the reception of these children. This proved a great success, and it eventually was taken over by the Ministry of Health and used to cover a large area of the Midlands. The evacuated children also brought with them an epidemic of Scarlet Fever; to meet this emergency the infected children were sent to the Fever Hospital, and an empty house was taken in which to isolate contacts. The epidemic was reduced to very small numbers in a few weeks, and the isolation house was then closed. A number of children was also found to be verminous, which called for increased services on the part of the disinfection services.

The number of evacuated children remaining at the end of the year was 783.

The County Council Education Authority opened a clinic for the medical attention of evacuated children of school age; children under school age were attended by the local doctors.

STATISTICS

Area	4,771 acres.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to Rate Book	2,895
Rateable Value	£63,438
Sum represented by penny rate	£243

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water: No extensions have been made during the year to works or mains. The quantity of water in the ten wells has been maintained at a somewhat higher level than the previous year despite the fact that the total consumption rose from 91½ million gallons to 95½ millions. 15 samples of the water were chemically and bacteriologically examined and all except one were satisfactory. In the exceptional case the water from two individual wells showed coliform organisms to be present. These wells were immediatly closed down, pumped dry and thoroughly cleaned out and chlorinated. Three subsequent samples taken at weekly intervals showed no evidence of coliform organisms and the wells were again taken into use and have given no further trouble.

A copy of the result of the Analysis and Report of the Leicestershire County Council dated 18th November 1939, regarding the last sample from the town main is appended:-

Appearance in 2-foot tube --- Clear.

Odour --- Nil.

Reaction --- Faintly alkaline.

Hardness --- 43.

	Parts per 100,000	Grains per Gallon
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.004	0.0028
Chlorine in Chlorides	1.0	0.7
(Equal to Chloride of Sodium)	1.65	1.15
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.02	0.014
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	----	---

No coliform organisms present in 10 c.cs.

Remarks. - The analysis shows this sample to be of good quality, and suitable for drinking.

Sixty houses in the district derive their supply from twenty-six private wells, and the remainder are connected to the public piped supply. 10 samples from private wells were examined for the presence of pollution, and all proved to be satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage: No extension or alteration in the system has been carried out during the year. There have been numerous small improvements, however, in the working of the sewage disposal works, and regular samples of all effluents are analysed and recorded.

Rivers and Streams: No instance of pollution has necessitated attention during the year.

Closet Accommodation: Ninety-one new water closets have been added to the sewerage system, and the total number in the area at the close of the year was 3,929 [illegible]. Other conditions were similar to those for 1938.

Public Cleansing: This work has continued on the lines of the previous year. 73 new dustbins were provided by owners of house property to replace those worn out. Trade refuse is collected weekly at a charge from 29 premises, and refuse brought to the Destructor is disposed of free. The Council's Destructor has dealt with the following approximate quantities during the year:- House refuse 1,994 tons, Trade refuse 854 tons.

Incombustible and inorganic refuse is deposited on the Controlled System at the Bolinfleet [illegible]. During the year 6 loads of refuse were received at payments in accordance with the scale adopted by the Council.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Inspections:-	1st Visits.	Re-visits.
Dwelling-house (all purposes)	342	307
Tents, Vans, etc. (human habitation)	4	0
Slaughter-houses	6	246
Food Premises	38	127
Dairies and Cowsheds	9	0
Offensive Trades	7	0
Animal Keeping	8	1
Factories	44	12
Shops	5	2
Petrol and Carbide Stores	41	13
Other Premises	73	48

Sundry Items:-	
Complaints investigated	71
Informal Notices served	150
Statutory Notices served	1

Dwelling-houses:-	
Dampness remedied	3
Rooms repaired, papered, etc.	24
Doors, windows, floors, etc. repaired	21
Yard and passage paving repaired	13
Drains repaired, relaid or unstopped	36
Sanitary or water fittings repaired or renewed	18
House demolished	1
Other defects remedied	17

Factories:-	
Sanitary Conveniences improved	2
Drains repaired	1
Means of escape in case of fire:-	
Means of escape improved	8
Certificate issued	1

Petrol and Carbide Stores:-

New store erected	1
Contraventions dealt with	4

	No. of Licences.	Quantity licensed
Petroleum Spirit	36	51,210 gallons
Carbide of Calcium	2	448 lbs.

Miscellaneous Nuisances, etc.:-

Offensive accumulations removed	25
Infestations of rats and mice dealt with	13
Other defects remedied	12

Disinfection and Disinfestation:-

Infected rooms fumigated	113
Verminous rooms treated	84
Verminous persons cleansed	13
Articles of bedding and clothing:-	
Steam disinfected etc.	1431
Destroyed	58

Special Classes of Premises and Occupations subject to control by the Local Authority:-

	Fish Frier	Rag and Bone Dealer
Number in District	5	4
Written consent to establishment of trades:-		
(a) Granted	1	-
(b) Renewed	3	2

Shops, Offices, Tents and Vans and camping sites called for no special attention.

Smoke Abatement: Eight complaints regarding smoke, soot, ash or grit were investigated, and 16 observations of chimneys and visits to premises were made. In three instances, it was found necessary to take action, and, as a result, the nuisances were promptly abated.

Swimming Baths and Pools: The one Swimming Bath in the district is owned by the Council. The water is circulated through a Paterson Filtration and Chlorination Plant, giving a complete turn over every four hours. Daily tests for chlorine content are made by the Baths Manager in accordance with the makers' directions. One sample of the water was bacteriologically examined and the result was satisfactory.

Eradication of Bed Bugs:

	Council Houses	Other Houses
Number of houses found to be infested	0	3
Number of houses disinfested	0	3

Three instances of slight infestation were dealt with during the year. The methods employed for eradication are similar to those described in the 1938 Report.

Schools: There are five Public Elementary, one County Secondary and three Private Schools in the town. The various buildings are in good sanitary condition, and all schools are connected to the town water supply and sewerage system.

Fifty-six houses have been erected by private enterprise during the year. This brings the total number constructed since 1919 to 1,027. During the latter period 165 houses have been closed, demolished or converted to business or other purposes. New Building Byelaws came into operation on 1st July 1939.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	109
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	168
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	7
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	23
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	25

2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	28

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year ... ... Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV. - Overcrowding:-

	(a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	0
	(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
	(c)(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	24
	(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0
	(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding	Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply:-

Trade	No. on Register.
Cowkeepers only	3
Retailers only	6
Retailers and Cowkeepers	7
Farms and other Premises	22

(Number of milch cows in district - 295)

The following licences have been issued under the Milk (special Designations) Order, 1936:-

"Pasteurised" Milk	1
"Tuberculin Tested" Milk (Dealers)	3
" " " (Supplementary)	1

Seven producers outside the area send milk to retailers for consumption within the district. Six are licensed in their respective areas to produce "Accredited" milk and one "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

Four local producers are licensed by the Leicestershire County Council in respect of five farms for the production of "Accredited" milk, and sampling of the latter is undertaken by the County Council. One sample of "Pasteurised" milk was submitted for bacteriological examination, and the result was satisfactory.

Defects remedied at cowsheds and dairies:-

Cleansing	4
Structural alterations	4

Meat and other Foods: Of the six slaughter-houses in the district three are owned by the Council and are tenanted by five butchers, and three private slaughter-houses are owned by two butchers. A high standard has been maintained in the type of animal slaughtered for food purposes.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (estimated)	600	0	20	2200	850
Number inspected	184	-	8	478	240
All diseases except Tuberculosis:-					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	1	5	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	1.09	-	12.50	1.05	-
Tuberculosis only:-					
Whole carcases condemned	1	-	-	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	13
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.09	-	-	-	5.83

Two licences under the Slaughter of Animals Act 1933 were issued and one license renewed.

Inspections have been made from time to time of shops, stalls, stores and other places where food is sold or prepared for sale.

Defects remedied at food premises:-

Cleansing carried out	2
Drains repaired	2
Food exposed to contamination	2

Food Condemned:-

865 lbs. home killed beef.
215 lbs. " " mutton.
231 lbs. " " pork.
162 lbs. sundry articles of food.

OUTBREAK OF WAR.

There has been a considerable curtailment in normal public health activities during the year owing to increased work in other directions. The Sanitary Inspector has acted in the capacity of Chief Billeting Officer, both in the preparation for and the reception of evacuees, the billeting arrangements, together with the extensive work in this connection which followed after the commencement of evacuation on September 1st. Many voluntary workers rendered valuable assistance, and their unstinted help contributed greatly to the smooth working of the scheme.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Forty-eight cases of Scarlet Fever occurred, nearly all of which were removed to fever hospital. There were isolated cases of Diphtheria and Paratyphoid:-

Scarlet Fever	48
Diphtheria...	1
Typhoid	1
Pneumonia	3

Tuberculosis: Nine new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred, which is average for the area, and two non-pulmonary. There were three deaths from Tuberculosis.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES T. SCOTT,

Medical Officer of Health.

BERNARD G. ELLIOTT,

Sanitary Inspector.